



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/779,989	02/17/2004	Lisa Starr	STRR/0004.C1	8890
26290	7590	12/02/2004	EXAMINER	
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P. 3040 POST OAK BOULEVARD SUITE 1500 HOUSTON, TX 77056			CHOI, STEPHEN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3724	

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II, Species A in the reply filed on 12 November 2004 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the examiner has not carried his burden of proving Species A and B should be restricted from one another. This is not found persuasive because Figures 1-6 and 7-9 clearly show two different and patentably distinct embodiments.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

"the neck portion" lacks positive antecedent basis.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 34 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 4, "an open housing end and a closed housing end" should be --the open housing end and the closed housing end--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morbeck (US 3,380,608).

Morbeck discloses all the recited elements of the invention including an elongated housing member having an inner cavity, a longitudinal housing axis (Figure 1), an open housing end (at 24, 25), a closed housing end (at 20, 21), side walls having an outer housing surface and an inner housing surface (22, 23), and a lid (16) rotatably secured by a hinge (17). Regarding claim 24, two sections (11, 12).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morbeck.

Morbeck discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for at least one inner rib. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide at least one inner rib on the container of Morbeck since the examiner takes Official Notice on the use of inner ribs as old and well known in the container art for the purpose of adding strength to container walls.

Conclusion


9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Goldberg, Lasich et al., Bryson, Neat, Asa et al., Pehr, Kleissendorf, Ogden et al., Amin, One et al., and Small are cited to show related devices.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Choi whose telephone number is 571-272-4504. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on 571-272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SC
28 November 2004


STEPHEN CHOI
PRIMARY EXAMINER